THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method of theft prevention of communication devices used in a communication network, the method comprising:

registering a communication device deployed at a location that is communicatively coupled to the communication network, wherein said registering uses at least one registration information associated with said location, wherein said at least one registration information comprises a device serial ID number associated with said location where the communication device is registered;

receiving validation information relating to the communication device, the validation information entered via the communication device; and

determining whether the communication device is authorized for use in the communication network, based on at least the validation information entered via the communication device.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein registering the communication device comprises one or more of recognizing a digital certificate stored in the communication device, entering roaming preferences for the communication device, and/or entering a password.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving of the validation information comprises one or more of receiving the device serial ID number, recognizing a digital certificate stored in the communication device, and/or receiving a password.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, comprising:

locking the communication device out of the communication network upon determination that the communication device is unauthorized.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, comprising:

determining the location of the communication device.

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5, comprising:

notifying an authority of the location of the communication device, if the communication device has been reported as stolen.

7. (Previously presented) A system supporting theft prevention of communication devices used in a communication network, comprising:

at least one processor, communicatively coupled to the communication network, that receives registration information related to a communication device, said registration information associated with at least a location of the communication device, wherein said registration information comprises a device serial ID number of the communication device associated with said location where the communication device is registered, the at least one processor further receives validation information entered into the communication network via the communication device, and determines whether the communication device is authorized for use in the communication network, based on the received validation information.

8. (Previously presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the at least one processor comprises one or both of a personal computer and/or a set-top-box.

9. (Previously presented) A system supporting theft prevention of communication devices used in a communication network, comprising:

a communication device deployed in a home environment; and

a communication network communicatively coupled to the home environment, the communication network receiving registration information for the communication device, the registration information associated with a location of the communication device, wherein said registration information comprises a device serial ID number of the communication device associated with said location, the communication network receiving validation information entered via the communication device and relating to the communication device, and determining whether to grant the communication device access to the communication network, based on the validation information entered via the communication device.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a third party media server, a media storage server, a broadband access headend, a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, a closed communication infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the communication network comprises the Internet.

12. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the communication network comprises the closed communication infrastructure.

13. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the authorization information comprises one or more of the device serial ID number, a digital certificate, and/or a password.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein the communication device comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, a media player, and/or a MP3 player.

15. (Previously presented) A system supporting theft prevention of communication devices used in a communication network, comprising:

a storage device residing in a first home environment;

a media device residing in a second home environment; and

a communication network communicatively coupled to the first home environment and the second home environment, the communication network receiving registration information for the media device, the registration information associated with at least the second home environment, wherein the registration information comprises a device serial ID number of the media device associated with the second home environment, the communication network analyzing validation information entered via the media device, and determining whether to grant access to the media device to the first home environment via the communication network, based on the validation information entered via the media device residing in the second home environment.

16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the communication network analyzes authorization information and determines whether to grant access of the media device to the storage device.

17. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the communication network comprises one or more of a third party media server, a media storage server, a broadband access headend, a cable infrastructure, a satellite network infrastructure, a digital subscriber line (DSL) infrastructure, an Internet infrastructure, an intranet infrastructure, a wired infrastructure, a closed communication infrastructure, and/or a wireless infrastructure.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the communication network comprises the Internet.

19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the communication network comprises the closed communication infrastructure.

20. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the authorization information comprises one or more of the device serial ID number, a digital certificate, and/or a password.

21. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the media device comprises one or more of a digital camera, a digital camcorder, a television, a personal computer, a CD player, a juke-box, a multi-media gateway device, a multi-media personal digital assistant, a DVD player, a tape player, a media player, and/or a MP3 player.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said registering comprises entering the device serial ID number of the communication device associated with said location where the communication device is registered if the device is to be used only at said location where the communication device is registered, and wherein said registering comprises entering the device serial ID number of the communication device, a user name and a password if the communication device is to be used at another location that is separate and distinct from said location wherein the communication device is registered.

23. (Previously presented) The system of claim 7, wherein said registration information comprises the device serial ID number of the communication device associated with said location where the communication device is registered if the device is to be used only at said location where the communication device is registered, and wherein said registration information comprises the device serial ID number of the communication device, a user name and a password if the communication device is to be used at another location that is separate and distinct from said location where the communication device is registered.

24. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9, wherein said registration information comprises the device serial ID number of the communication device associated with said location where the communication device is registered if the device is to be used only at said location where the communication device is registered, and wherein said registration information comprises the device serial ID number of the communication device, a user name and a password if the communication device is to be used at another location that is separate and distinct from said location where the communication device is registered.

25. (Previously presented) The system of claim 15, wherein the registration information comprises the device serial ID number of the media device associated with the second home environment if the media device is to be used only at the second home environment, and wherein the registration information comprises the device serial ID number of the media device, a user name and a password if the media device is to be used at another location that is separate and distinct from the second home environment.